

CLAIMS

1. A digital signal receiver, comprising:

a reception processor operable to receive a broadcast reception signal containing information data and to cause said information data to be displayed on a display unit by using a browser; and

a distributed information storage unit operable to obtain said information data from said reception processor, to store said information data in a data storage device, to read said information data stored in said data storage device, and to supply said read information data to said reception processor for display, said distributed information storage unit including

a table-of-contents generating unit operable to generate a menu frame representing plural information items contained in said read information data; and

a table-of-contents information reforming unit operable to reform said menu frame into table-of-contents information having a signal format which can be displayed on said display unit by said browser.

2. The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said distributed information storage unit includes said data storage device.

3. The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said table-of-contents generating unit is operable

to generate said menu frame for each user by inputting preference information for each said user.

4. The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said table-of-contents generating unit is operable to generate said menu frame by inputting information on priorities of contents which a user wants to watch/listen to.

5. The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reception processor includes an encryption unit operable to encrypt said information data before said information data is obtained by said distributed information storage unit, and said distributed information storage unit further includes a decryption unit operable to decrypt said information data obtained from said reception processor.

6. The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said distributed information storage unit further includes an encryption unit operable to encrypt said read information data before said read information data is supplied to said reception processor, and said reception processor includes a decryption unit operable to decrypt said read information data supplied from said distributed information storage unit.

7. The digital signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information data is transmitted during a broadcast vacant time.

8. A digital signal display method, comprising:

receiving a broadcast signal containing information data;

storing said information data in a data storage device;

reading out said stored information data from said data storage device;

displaying said read information data on a display unit using a browser;

generating a menu frame representing plural information items contained in said read information data;

reforming said menu frame into table-of-contents information having a signal format which can be displayed on said display unit using said browser; and

displaying said table-of-contents information on said display unit using said browser.

9. The digital signal display method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising encrypting and decrypting said information data after said step of receiving said broadcast signal and before said step of storing said information data in said data storage device.

10. The digital signal display method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising encrypting and decrypting said read information data before said read information data is displayed.

11. The digital signal display method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said storing step includes the steps of

separating from said information data one period of data having an amount of data corresponding to plural periods which are periodically contained in said broadcast signal, and storing only said one period of data in said data storage device.